VOLUME XXI. NEW YORK, MARCH 16, 1893. NUMBER 533.

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AN UNNECESSARY WARNING.

Bishop Gullem: I TRUST YOU ARE AWARE, MISS PENSTOCK, WHAT A SOLEMN THING AN ENGAGEMENT IS, AND I HOPE YOU WILL NEVER SEEK TO WITHDRAW IT.

Miss Penstock: YOU NEEDN'T BE ALARMED, BISHOP. WHY, JACK IS GOING TO GIVE ME $2,500 A YEAR FOR MY CLOTHES.

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VOLUME XXI. ·LIFE· NUMBER 533.

LENT.

EACH morning now the Lenten bells
Make music in the steeple;
The avenues are swelled with swells
The dear do-nothing people:
Society—the rich and great,—
Relaxing from its labors,
Now gathers at the church's gate
And meets its modest neighbors.

The women who, a month ago
Dressed somewhat over-tightly,—
Whose pretty faces used to glow
At balls and suppers nightly,—
Now clad in very sombre stuff
Go forth to prayers demurely,
Upon their bodies clothes enough
To keep them warm securely.

The men who nothing did but dance
At all the gay cotillions,
For forty days now have a chance
To balance up their millions;
And while the sweethearts and the wives
Attend the service formal,
The men are heedless of their lives
So long as stocks are normal.

And thus it is that Lent goes past:—
The doubter goes on doubting;
The fast one has a chance to fast,
And get a moral outing;
The good ones go the goodly way;
The sinner keeps on sinning;
The preacher preaches twice a day
And has his decent inning.

Felix Carmen.

"While there's Life there's Hope."

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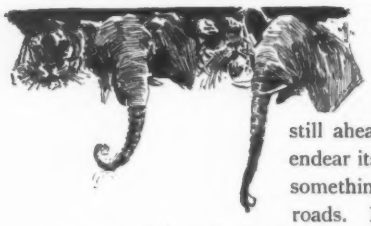
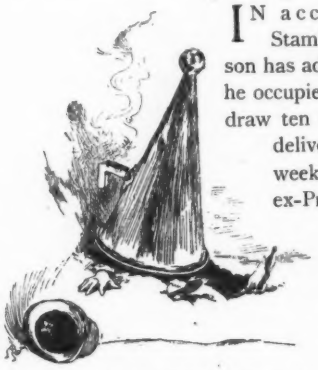


THE fifty-third Congress, which has the advantage of all other Congresses in having its record still ahead of it, is to be invited to endear itself to everybody by doing something for the cause of good roads. It is to be asked to secure "a comprehensive exhibit of roads, their construction and management," at the Chicago Fair, and to endow the administrative end of the Federal Government with a Road Department.

As to having a road show at the Fair, LIFE hopes there will be one, and a good one. There is no one thing (except silver) of which the country has quite such a surplus as of bad roads, and if it is possible to get any good ideas about road making into people's heads by having a suitable road exhibit at Chicago, the exhibit should be had. One great benefit LIFE hopes for from the Fair is the amelioration of national architecture through the influence of the Fair buildings. If a thorough road-show would exercise an analogous influence on the roads, let us have the show, and if there is any doubt about it let us give the exhibit the benefit of the doubt.

As for the expediency of establishing a Department of Roads, that is another matter. There are some pretty good Jeffersonian reasons for putting the responsibility of highway construction on the states and counties, and though a perfect Jeffersonian road system has been in operation for a century with extremely bad results, it is not quite obvious that the creation of a Road Department would help matters. The last new departmental accession, the Department of Agriculture, is understood to have justified its existence chiefly by its diligence in shipping samples of seeds to remote parts of the country. The proposed department could hardly hope to emulate this sort of industry because of the bulk of the materials with which it would have to deal. If it were attempted, for example, to ship samples of good roads from Washington to Nebraska, it is doubtful if the consignees could be induced to pay the freight charges on the gift and take it away from the office. No doubt if satisfactory reasons can be shown to Congress for establishing the new department, Congress will establish it, but LIFE is not the sure enough of its expediency to be willing to bias the legislative mind in its favor.

* * *



IN accepting a lectureship in Stamford University, Mr. Harrison has added dignity to the position he occupies. If an ex-President can draw ten thousand dollars a year for delivering ten lectures in ten weeks, it means that the ex-Presidency is a more lucrative job than has been supposed, and a fitter haven for the aspirations of progressive Americans.

* * *

IT would be interesting to learn whether the successful efforts of ex-Senator Hiscock to prevent the Senate's passing the North River Bridge Bill in the closing hours of the 52d Congress, were exerted in his capacity as Senator from New York, or as Attorney for the Central Hudson Railroad. If it were illegal for Senators of the United States to be retained as counsel by corporations, such painful questions as this would not arise.

* * *

GOOD-BYE! Mr. Wanamaker. We bear you no malice on account of the stamps. Go in peace! We believe you did your best. There is no free alkali in you, anyhow, Mr. Wanamaker. Long may you live and learn, and long continue to dazzle the thrifty Quakers with unparalleled bargains.

* * *

MR. GANNON, of Omaha, described as President of the Irish National League of America, is quoted as announcing that he is a candidate for appointment as Minister to Chili to succeed Mr. Egan, and that he has the solid support of all the Irishmen in America.

Even if Mr. Gannon has all the support that he claims, it is most unlikely that he will succeed Mr. Egan. It would seem that if there was one job in the gift of Mr. Cleveland that is less likely than another to go to an Irishman for Irish reasons, it is the mission to Chili. If Mr. Gannon's backing is good, he may get sent to Rome, or to Russia, or Algiers, or Turkestan, or Vienna, or somewhere, where the work is light and the pay good; but hardly to Chili.

It is to be hoped, however, that one of the first acts of the new administration will be to write "cancelled" across the face of Mr. Egan's commission. He is more needed out of the United States service than in it.

ELEONORA DUSE.

ELEONORA DUSE.

THERE must be a mistake somewhere. The artist whose portrait we present this week is neither a skirt-dancer nor does any especial scandal attach to her name. She does not appear in farce-comedy and so far as reported her diamonds have not been stolen. In spite of these serious drawbacks, however, she has contrived to make a financial success in New York. This fact is all the more startling when one considers that she is not even a fad among fashionable folk. Whatever triumph she has attained has not come through clever newspaper puffing, but by sheer artistic merit. Laboring under the disadvantage of playing in a foreign language she has broueht to bear on her audiences an art which rises superior to mere words. She appeals to some common chord of human sympathy which makes every look a word and every gesture almost a spoken sentence. The true artist is so great a rarity on our stage that when one comes unheralded and almost unannounced, and by force of her art achieves a triumph, she is worthy of what may seem extravagant praise. The more so as she is the saving clause in a long history of unworthy successes on the New York stage.

INSULT TO INJURY.

BOOKISHNESS

APHORISTIC FICTION.

THE English novel has not proceeded far enough in its evolution, to get rid of the title and motto at the head of each chapter. Mr. Merriman, who is favorably known to the public by his tale "A Phantom of the Future," retains this old-fashioned apparatus in the present volume. As thus:

CHAPTER XXI.

ALONE.

"The Name of the Slough was Despond."

But this is the only kind of lumber in "From One Generation to Another," which is very swift and sententious. It gets right to work on the story and sticks to business to the end, without padding of landscapes or sunsets, and with its moral reflections all condensed into epigrams. It is not quite satisfactory as a picture of life, but it is clever and eminently readable. The epigrams have an agreeably cynical flavor, and their smartness strikes one more often than their wisdom. Sometimes they miss fire, suggesting thus a certain air of discipleship to George Meredith, which one fancies that he detects in Mr. Merriman's work. Here are a few examples. "Many a so-called honest man travels gayly in a first-class carriage with a second-class ticket." "How many of us imagine the satisfaction of our own curiosity to be sympathy!" "The dead have perforce to accept much affection which they scornfully refused in life." "He is a wise liar who makes use of the truth at times."

The nexus which links "One Generation to Another," is a Jewish officer in the Indian army, who has inherited, among other racial characteristics, bandy legs, a long, sad nose, a greed of gain, an indomitable will and an entire lack of physical courage. The author, who is at no pains to conceal his dislike for the race, acknowledges that military Jews do not abound. This unpleasant Semite has been reported killed in the Indian mutiny, and, being engaged to a young woman in England from whom he desires to be released, he omits to contradict the report, and remains, for a time, conveniently dead.

Meanwhile his betrothed consoles herself with almost indecent celerity, by marrying an elderly country gentleman just four months after the news of her lover's death has been received. The epigrammatic suddenness of this action her creator confesses he is at a loss to explain, except by another epigram. "One notices," he says, "that when a woman takes action in this incomprehensible way, her lady friends are never surprised: They seem to have some subtle sympathy with her. It is only the men who look puzzled." It is the stepson of this lady who, a generation later, duplicates the manœuvre of her quondam lover by temporarily dying, under the latter's directions, while in charge of a Goorkha contingent on the Indian frontier. And it is her son, a dandy Cantab, who finally avenges his mother's wrongs, when, twenty-six years after the event, in a burst of fury due to pre-natal influences, he chases her false lover in and out among the drawing room furniture, through the window and across the lawn and ends by cracking his skull on the stone terrace.

This a highly sensational finish to a by no means sensational novel. Mr. Merriman's method is anything but romantic, yet it is without the dramatic impartiality of the best realism. He has a curious dislike of his bad characters, and holds them up to scorn in choice epigram. "A tea party next week was of more importance to her than a change in fortune next year." "Incompetence was by him reduced to a science. There were so many things which he could not do, that he was forced to find occupations for a very extensive leisure." Sister Cecilia, an offensively holy person, "had the lofty condescension of the saved towards the damned in prospective." One is reminded of Charles Reade beginning the name of one of his characters with a small letter, to express his contempt for him.

Henry S. Beers.

AN INVENTIVE AGE.

MUGGTHORPE LIVES IN A LONELY SPOT OUT IN SEEDVILLE. THIS SHOWS HOW HE UTILIZES HIS ELECTRICAL STUDIES TO FIND HIS WAY HOME WHEN THE MOON REFUSES TO SHINE.

NEW BOOKS.

A COUNTRY MUSE. By Norman R. Gale. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Mâlmôrda. By Joseph I. C. Clarke. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

The Tuscan Republics. By Bella Duffy. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

A Born Player. By Mary West. New York and London: Macmillan and Company.

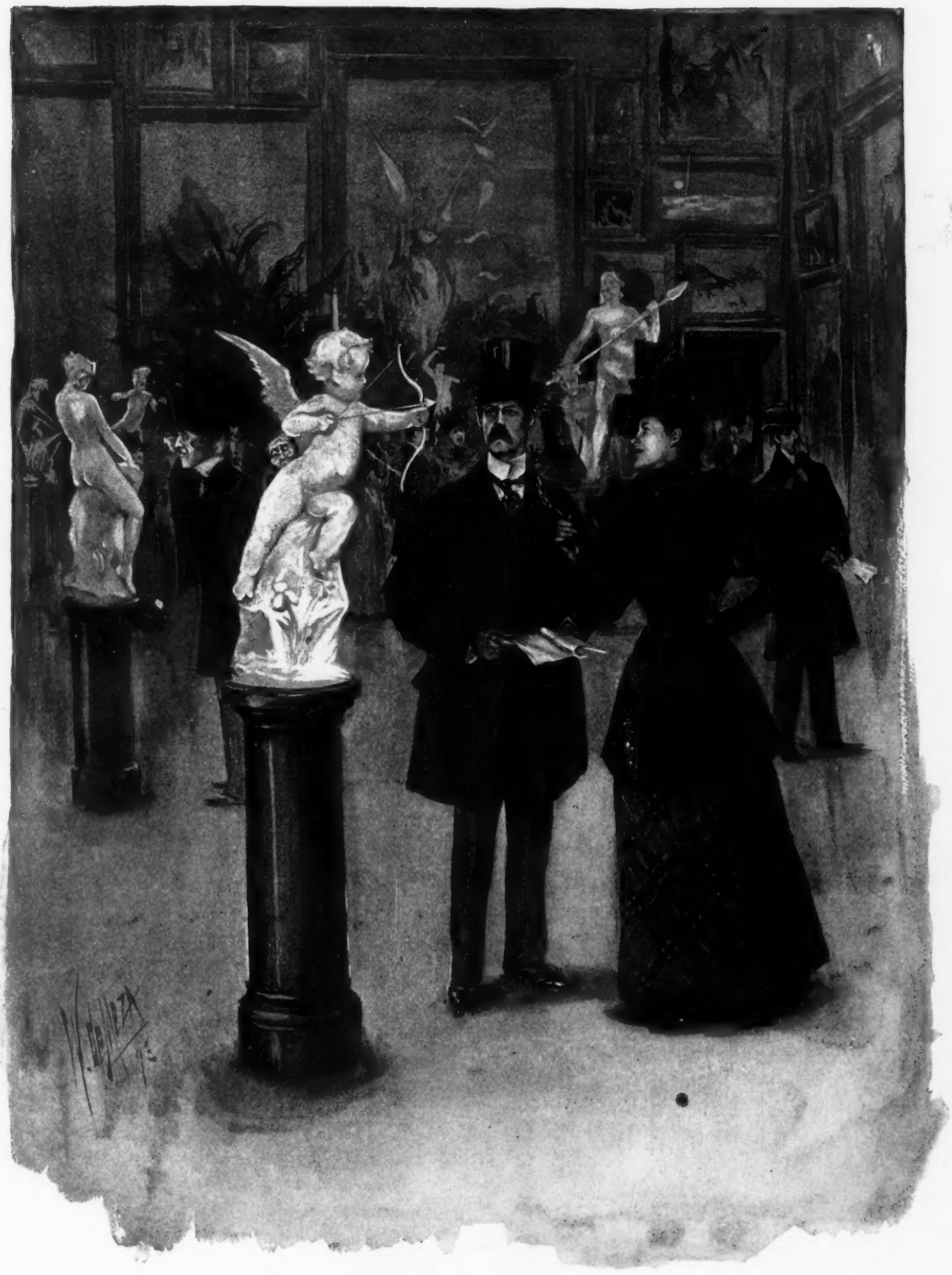
A Comedy of Elopement. By Christian Reid. New York: D. Appleton and Company.

The Mysteries of the Court of Napoleon III. By G. A. Theirry. Chicago: Laird and Lee.

Adzuma, or The Japanese Wife. By Sir Edwin Arnold. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

The Poems of William Watson. New York: Macmillan and Company.

The Evolution of an Empire. By Mary Parmalee. New York: William Beverly Harrison.



He: WHY, DO YOU SUPPOSE, THEY ALWAYS REPRESENT CUPID AS A BOY?
She: BECAUSE HE NEVER ARRIVES AT YEARS OF DISCRETION.

HIS EVERLASTING EXPERIMENTS WITH

ERIMENTS WITH ILL-MATED PAIRS.

THE festivities at Washington which marked the deposition of the Grand Old Party from the throne it has held so long, are said to have been marked by a bibulousness calculated to make the judicious grieve. If our Prohibition friends knew their business they would insert a plank in their next platform demanding a change of date for Inauguration Day. Most people, Democrats, Republicans and Populists alike, prefer to take the chances of getting drunk instead of getting the pneumonia. So long as the American climate keeps up its monkey-shines, we must expect a large amount of inebriety at Washington every fourth fourth of March.

"JEE WHIZZ! ONLY ONE HUNTER IN TWO WEEKS! I BELIEVE I'LL JOIN A MENAGERIE."

LEVISOHN: Well, Miss Maud, I beat Jim shooting to-day. We shot at a nickel and I hit it.

MAUD (*to Jim*): How did Mr. Levisohn happen to beat you shooting?

JIM: You see, a nickel appears much larger to Levisohn than it does to me.

TALK is not cheap when you use a long distance telephone.

OUR READERS WILL BE PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE JUVENILE BAL MASQUE HELD IN THE HALL OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF UNITED BRICKLAYERS WAS A DECIDED SUCCESS.

METHOD IN HER MADNESS.

SHE called him birdy, lovy dove,
And then, his eye bedimming,
She said, "Don't buy those trousers, dear,
My ball dress needs retrimming."

A GLOOMY OUTLOOK.

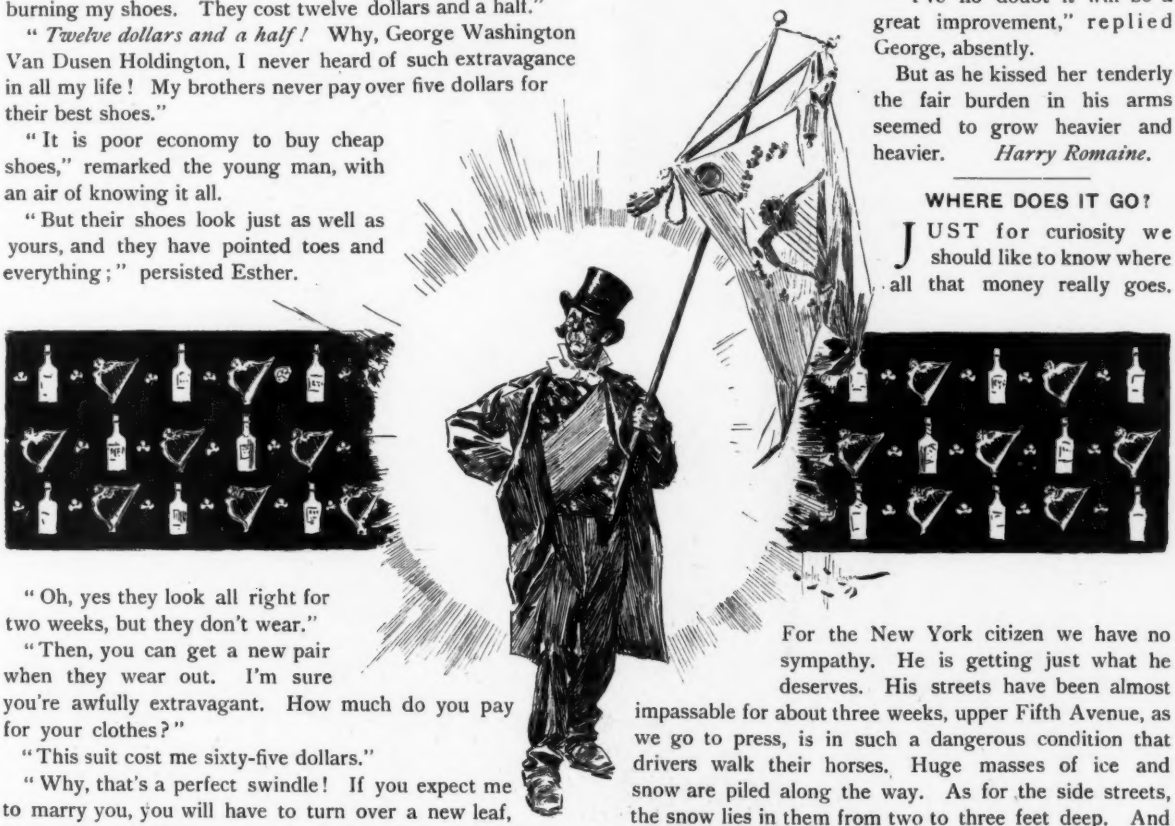
"PUT your feet nearer to the fire, George; I'm sure they must be wet after the distance you have walked through the rain;" said Esther Dacey, solicitously.

"It doesn't matter," replied the young man, as he drew his promised bride down on his knee; "and I'm afraid of burning my shoes. They cost twelve dollars and a half."

"*Twelve dollars and a half!* Why, George Washington Van Dusen Holdington, I never heard of such extravagance in all my life! My brothers never pay over five dollars for their best shoes."

"It is poor economy to buy cheap shoes," remarked the young man, with an air of knowing it all.

"But their shoes look just as well as yours, and they have pointed toes and everything;" persisted Esther.



"Oh, yes they look all right for two weeks, but they don't wear."

"Then, you can get a new pair when they wear out. I'm sure you're awfully extravagant. How much do you pay for your clothes?"

"This suit cost me sixty-five dollars."

"Why, that's a perfect swindle! If you expect me to marry you, you will have to turn over a new leaf, I can tell you. Ned got a perfectly beautiful suit for sixteen dollars, the other day."

"But sometimes I have to go out when it rains;" remarked George quietly.

"What's that got to do with it?"

"You can't wear those cheap suits out of doors when it rains; they get wet and shrink up."

"Don't you think you're funny! But how much did you pay for that necktie, George?"

"A dollar and a half, dear. That's the market."

"Oh, George, the boys get beautiful ones on Nassau Street for fifty cents. Elegant four-in-hands."

Yes, and the colors come off on your shirt bosom, and when a man pays thirty-six dollars a dozen for his shirts he can't afford—"

"Why, that's three dollars apiece, and I saw lovely gentlemen's shirts at Stirner's to-day for forty-seven cents, unlaundried. I'll have to take you in hand, George. I can't allow you to throw your money away like that after we're married."

"And after we're married will I have to wear five dollar shoes and sixteen dollar suits and one dollar and eighty-nine cent hats?" asked George, with a shudder.

"Of course you will. You'll see what a prudent, saving little wife can do for a man. You'll look just as well and we'll have lots of money left for other things."

"I've no doubt it will be a great improvement," replied George, absently.

But as he kissed her tenderly the fair burden in his arms seemed to grow heavier and heavier. *Harry Romaine.*

WHERE DOES IT GO?

JUST for curiosity we should like to know where all that money really goes.

For the New York citizen we have no sympathy. He is getting just what he deserves. His streets have been almost impassable for about three weeks, upper Fifth Avenue, as we go to press, is in such a dangerous condition that drivers walk their horses. Huge masses of ice and snow are piled along the way. As for the side streets, the snow lies in them from two to three feet deep. And it will remain there until it melts.

But all the money and those additional appropriations to meet the emergency, where has it gone?

Echo answers, where? And Tammany answers, Ha, Ha!

MOTHER: My daughter, I'm astonished at your conduct with that gentleman. I distinctly heard him kiss you twice.

DAUGHTER: Nonsense, ma. You know very well the conservatory has an echo.

IT was Jonah who first remarked, "I'm not in it," as he surveyed the whale that had deposited him on dry land.

IF THERE IS TO BE A COMPETITION FOR DESIGNS OF STAINED GLASS WINDOWS FOR ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL LIFE WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE ABOVE.

HER REASON.

"YOUR beauteous face
is just as fair
As when, ere Lent came in,
You banished sweets and took
to prayer,
To keep you free from sin.

"Your golden hair is just as
fine
As when, six weeks ago,
You sipped with me a glass
of wine,
And let me kiss you—so.

"There is no change. Your
eyes betray
Their old-time sparkle
now.
And fasting has not stol'n away
The mischief from your brow.

"If you are then, no better, dear,
Than when last time we kissed.
Why have you been so prim—austere?
Just think of what we've missed."

He ceased. She sighed. "My love," said she,
"I really thought it best
To keep this Lent, because, you see,
I had to have a rest."

Tom Masson.

"I SAW poor Scribbles the poet this morning and the poor duffer hadn't an overcoat. He'll die of pneumonia."

"Not if he is a true poet. They never die."

"HAVING IT OUT WITH HIM."

He: NO, THE BOSS DOESN'T PAY ME MORE THAN I'M WORTH.
She: HOW IN THE WORLD DO YOU MANAGE TO LIVE ON IT?

AMBIGUOUS.

SHE: How was your speech at the club received the other night?
HE: When I sat down they said it was the best thing I ever did.

THERE ARE SIGNS OF IT.

"YOU can't stop the advance of Chicago. She's bound to get ahead," said the Chicagoan.

"Seems to me she has got a head already," said the jealous Bostonian.

MRS. T.: Am I to have an Easter bonnet?
MR. T.: I'm afraid not, my dear.
MRS. T.: Why?
MR. T. (*wearily*): Ask those who engineered the Reading deal, my love.

DINAH (*scrubbing the floor*): You mus gib me a present to-morrow, Missus. It's my birthday.
MISTRESS: And so your birthday comes on Easter this year, Dinah.
DINAH: Yesim, I has a birthday ebery Easter.

AUT SCISSORS AUT NULLUS

"NOT only was Dr. Sharp the best surgeon in the State, but, best of all, he was young and eligible. It was, then, not to be wondered at that he was particularly liked by fond mammas with marriageable daughters, and still less a cause for wonder that he considered himself as always on the defensive.

One afternoon, at a tea given by Mrs. Bicker for her oldest daughter, his hostess remarked, with flattering interest: "It must require great presence of mind in your profession, doctor. Now supposing a man should fall out of a balloon, what would you do first?"

"Wait for him to come down," he replied, calmly.—*Boston Budget.*

CUSTOMER: This straw hat will do. You can charge it to me.

HAT MAN (*stiffly*): Our business is run on a strictly cash basis, sir. We couldn't afford to trust a man who buys a straw hat in the middle of Winter because he can get it cheap.

CUSTOMER (*haughtily*): You are evidently not aware, sir, that I am the proprietor of the hothouse across the way.—*Clothier and Furnisher.*

TOM GARRISON, a well-known guide and fisherman at Greenwood Lake, went on the ice with his team and broke through. The horses got ashore, and one of them turned to look at her master. Tom saw her and called to her. The intelligent beast approached him and he continued talking to her in a coaxing voice. When she was within ten feet of him, he thought of her training in plowing. "Whoa, Nell!" he shouted. "Gee, now, gal! Whoa, there! Steady, gal. Back up! Whoa!" and, in an instant, he seized her long, flowing tail, and shouted: "Git ep!" Nell started forward and Tom was dragged out upon the ice.—*Argonaut.*

THE other day, two Chinese damsels invaded the San Francisco *Chronicle* building. They rode up and down the elevator, visiting the different floors, opening the doors of several offices, apparently for no other purpose than to see what was inside, meanwhile all the time jabbering and laughing, as if they were very much amused. When asked whom they were looking for, one of them answered: "We no look for anybody—we all the same slumming."—*Argonaut.*

BRIDGET was a "hired girl" who was too amiable to believe in a scolding. A story of her should be remembered as an item on the credit side when the delinquencies of "help" are being conned over.

"Why, Bridget," exclaimed the housewife, "I can write my name in the dust here!"

"'Deed, ma'am," replied Bridget, with generous admiration, "thot's more nor I can do. Sure, now, there's nothing loike education, after all, is there, ma'am?"—*Argonaut.*

STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS on one occasion was able to give utterance to a historical retort. After someone had been assailing him in the Senate by the most severe personal denunciation, Douglas arose in his seat and said: "What no gentleman should say, no gentleman need answer."—*Argonaut.*

"YOUNG WAITLEY seems low spirited. I wonder what troubles him."

"His uncle is dead."

"But his uncle has been dead several days, and he has seemed cheerful enough until now."

"Yes, but the will was read last night."—*Elmira Echoes.*

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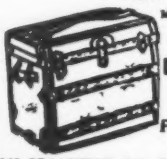
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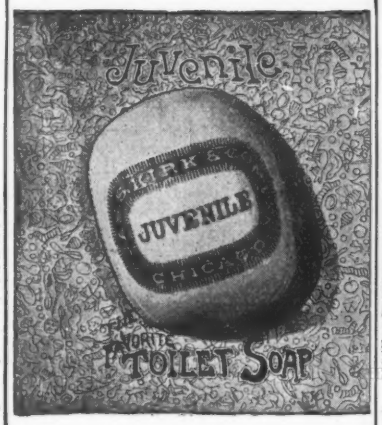

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